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Message Text

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43
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W
---------- 063313
P R 100950Z JAN 74
FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5914
INFO AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 TANANARIVE 0037

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, MA, US
SUBJ: US-MALAGASY RELATIONS

REFS: A. TANANARIVE 0015
B. STATE 003366 (NOTAL)
C. STATE 003768 (NOTAL)

OUAGADOUGOU FOR ASST SEC DESIGNATE EASUM

BEGIN SUMMARY: MY MEETING WITH MINISTER TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT GENERAL ANDRIAMAHAZO TO USE U.S. ATTITUDE ON MATTERS ON WHICH GOMR INTERESTED IN U.S. ASSISTANCE IN ORDER TO INFLUENCE MALAGASY POSITION, NOW ON NASA STATION NEGOTIATIONS, AND EVENTUALLY ON SHIP VISITS, TOOK UNEXPECTED TURN. ANDRIAMAHAZO, MOST SECRETLY AND WITH PLEA THAT HE NOT BE REVEALED AS SO STATING, ASSERTED "MANY" MALAGASY ARE TRYING USE NASA NEGOTIATIONS (AS WELL AS REVERSAL ON SHIP VISITS TO DIEGO-SUAREZ) TO "PUSH U.S. OUT OF MADAGASCAR" AND ORIENT COUNTRY TOWARD EAST. HE URGED WE PURSUE TACTICS OF DRAGGING OUT NASA NEGOTIATIONS AND BARGAINING ON RENTAL ISSUE, AND AVOID BEING MANEUVERED INTO POSITION OF GIVING FINAL NO AND REPTURING NEGOTIATIONS. NOTING THAT FOREIGN MINISTER RATSIRAKA WHO GUIDING NEGOTIATIONS LEAVING SOON ON TRIP ABROAD, HE RECOMMENDED WE POSTPONE RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS UNTIL RATSIRAKA OUT OF COUNTRY. COMMENTS: WE HAVE ALREADY OBTAINED MALAGASY AGREEMENT TO WEEK'S POSTPONEMENT, ARE SEEKING MORE PRECISE INFORMATION ON RATSIRAKA'S TRAVEL PLANS,
SECRET

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AND SHALL BE SENDING MODIFIED NEGOTIATING PROPOSALS TO WASHINGTON ON JANUARY 11. END SUMMARY.

1. I HAD LONG PRIVATE, FRANK, AND FREINDLY TALK WITH GENERAL

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ANDRIAMAHAZO ON STATE OF US-MALAGASY RELATIONS JANUARY 9. I
TOLD HIM IN CONSIDERABLE DETAIL ABOUT RECEPTIVE ATTITUDE I HAD
FOUND IN WASHINGTON DURING MY EARLY DECEMBER CONSULTATIONS ON
MATTERS OF INTEREST TO MALAGASY GOVT, AND THEN EXPRESSED
CONCERN I HAD DEVELOPED SINCE MY RETURN ABOUT POSSIBLE NEGATIVE
INFLUENCE ON THAT FAVORABLE ATTITUDE WHICH COULD ARISE FROM
APPARENT TREND IN NASA NEGOTIATIONS AND SUDDEN REVERSAL IN
DECEMBER AUTHORIZATION FOR SHIP VISIT TO DIEGO-SUDREZ.

2. I PLACED PRIMARY EMPHASIS AT THIS TIME ON ISSUE OF RENT FOR
NASA STATION. I INDICATED THAT NASA IN PSOTION PAY ONLY
MODERATE RENT BECAUSE OF ITS BUSINESSLIKE APPROACH TO ITS
BUDGET, AND THAT FIGURES ORIGINALLY PROPOSED BY MALAGASY SIDE
ARE FAR BEYOND REALM OF POSSIBILITY. ANDRIAMAHAZO SAID HIS
PERSONAL POSITION ON RENT HAD BEEN MADE CLEAR AT HIS INITIAL
DISCUSSION OF SUBJECT IN WASHINGTON IN NOVEMBER, AND ADDED HE
PERSONALLY CONSIDERS GOVERNMENT BOUND ON RETROACTIVE RENTAL ISSUE
BY POSITION TAKEN BY FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER SYLLA IN 1963. BUT,
AS HE THEN POINTED OUT, IT IS FOREIGN MINISTER RATSIRAKA WHO IS
IN CHARGE OF NEGOTIATIONS ON NASA STATION FOR MALAGASY SIDE.

3. THEN ANDRIAMAHAZO, IN WHAT HE ASKED THAT WE TREAT AS HIGHLY
SECRET AND NOT REVEAL AS HIS SUGGESTIONS, RECOMMENDED THAT WE
FOLLOW TACTICS OF DRAGGING OUT NEGOTIATIONS AND BARGAINING OVER
RENTAL AMOUNTS. HE ASSERTED THERE ARE MANY IN MADAGASCAR WHO
WANT TO PUSH U.S. OUT AND MOVE MADAGASCAR TOWARD EASTERN ORBIT,
AND INDICATED THIS IS MOTIVATION OF BOTH ORIGINAL RENTAL DEMANDS
IN NASA NEGOTIATIONS AND REVERSAL ON SHIP VISITS. HE URGED THAT
WE NOT GET OURSELVES INTO POSITION OF GIVING FINAL NO ON RENTAL
ISSUE IN NASA NEGOTIATIONS OR OF BREAKING OFF NEGOTIATIONS.
HE EXPALINED THIS IS EXACTLY POSITION INTO WHICH THOSE WHO WANT
TO GET US OUT OF MADAGASCAR ARE TRYING TO PUSH US DURING
NEGOTIATIONS.

4. HE INDICATED RATSIRAKA GOING ABROAD ON TRIP AND WE SHOULD
SEEK POSTPONE NEGOTIATIONS UNTIL HE AWAY. HE SAID RATSIRAKA
MIGHT LEAVE BY JANUARY 10, BUT HE DID NOT KNOW HOW LONG HE WOULD
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BE GONE, ADDING (AS EMBASSY KNOWS FROM EXPERIENCE) THAT IS
RARELY IF EVER CERTAIN WHEN RATSIRAKA LEAVES MADAGASCAR.
COMMENT: WE HAVE OBTAINED POSTPONEMENT FOR WEEK AS SUGGESTED
BY DEPARTMENT. WE KNOW RATSIRAKA EXPECTING GO TO MAINLAND
CHINA THIS MONTH, AND ARE ATTEMPTING OBTAIN FURTHER INFORMATION
RE DEPARTURE DATE AND LENGTH OF ABSENCE.) I ASKED EXPLICITLY
WHETHER RATSIRAKA IS AMONG THOSE SEEKING PUSH US OUT AND IMPEL
MADAGASCAR TOLARD EAST, AS ANDRIAMAHAZO SEEMING TO INFER.
PROBABLY SENSING THAT HE HAD ALREADY GONE VERY FAR, ANDRIAMAHAZO
AVOIDED DIRECT ANSWER BY VAGUE REFERENCE TO RATSIRAKA'S
"OMNIDIRECTIONAL" FOREIGN POLICY.

5. I ALSO ASKED WHERE GENERAL RAMANANTSOA STANDS ON QUESTION

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OF MADAGASCAR'S POLITICAL ORIENTATION. HE REPLIED
RAMANANATSOA
HOLDS HIMSELF ABOVE STRUGGLE ON THIS ISSUE, WITHOUT TAKING
PSOTION. ANDRIAMAHAZO HIMSELF EXPRESSED DISGUST WITH POLITICS,
AND INDICATED HE LOOKING FORWARD TO PERIOD WHEN HIS MINISTERSHIP
ENDS IN THREE YEARS AND THEN MONTHS AND HE CAN RETIRE TO HIS
PLACE OUTSIDE TANANARIVE. MADE VERY CLEAR, HOWEVER, HIS
PERSONAL DESIRE IS FOR MADAGASCAR TO STAY ORIENTED TOWARD WEST.
NOTHING THAT FRENCH ARE "LEAVING," HE MADE STRONG PLEA THAT U.S.
MAINTAIN ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH MADAGASCAR. IF U.S. GOES, HE
SAID PATH WILL BE OPEN TO PERSIAN GULF FOR EAST.

6. HE STATED THAT BOTH RUSSIANS AND CHINESE MANEUVERING TO
IMPROVE THEIR POSITION IN INDIAN OCEAN AND IN MADAGASCAR IN
PARTICULAR. INTIMATED SOVIETS HAD INVITED HIM FOR VACATION ON
BLACK SEA AS PART OF CAMPAIGN BUILD UP THEIR INFLUENCE. SAID

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W
---------- 063326
P R 100950Z JAN 74
FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5915
INFO AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

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EXDIS

CHINESE HAD URGED THAT MADAGASCAR FOLLOW THEIR APPROACH
TOWARD DEVELOPMENT OF ARMY AS ONE MORE APPRORIATE TO POOR
DEVELOPING COUNTRY.

7. COMMENTS:
A. WHEREAS WE HAD PREVIOUSLY ESTIMATED THAT MAIN MALAGASY PURPOSE
IN NASA NEGOTIATIONS WAS TO HOLD US UP FOR AS MUCH MONEY AS
POSSIBLE, IT APPEARS IN ANDRIAMAHAZO'S STATEMENTS THAT
SITUATION IS SUBSTANTIALLY MORE SERIOUS: THAT ELEMENTS IN
MALAGASY GOVERNMENT ARE USING NEGOTIATIONS TO TRY DRIVE US OUT OF
MADAGASCAR. HE APPEARS, WITHOUT BEING EXPLICIT, TO BE POINTING
FINGER AT RATSIRAKA.

B. WE AGREE RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BE DELAYED UNTIL
RATSIRAKA IS OUT OF COUNTRY. BUT, RECALLING INTIAL EXORBITANT
MALAGASY POSITION ON RENT WAS LAID DOWN WHEN HE WAS TRAVELING
ABROAD, WE DOUBT HE IS ONLY OBSTACLE. ANDRIAMAHAZO'S REFERENCE TO
"MANY" WANTING U.S. OUT OF MADAGASCAR CONFIRMS THIS. WE CANNOT

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NOW IDENTIFY WHO OTHERS MAY BE, BUT DO NOT EXCLUDE THAT SOME IN RAMANANTSOA'S IMMEDIATE ENTOURAGE MAY BE INCLUDED.

C. THUS WE CONCLUDE THAT NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BE APPROACHED WITH CAUTION, EVEN WHEN RATSIRAKA IS OUT OF COUNTRY. THAT IS, PARALLELING ANDRIAMAHAZO'S ADVICE, WE SHOULD GO BACK INTO NEGOTIATIONS
WITH RENTAL OFFER CONSIDERABLY LESS THAN PSOTION NASA FINALLY PREPARED CONCEDE. SHALL SEND SPECIFIC PROPOSAL ON JANUARY 11 AS
SECRET

WE WISH DELAY UNTIL WE SEE WHETHER ANYTHING RELEVANT EMERGES FROM DCM DINNER JANUARY 10 WITH CHIEF MALAGASY NEGOTIATOR AND OTHERS.

D. WE SHALL HOLD IN ABEYANCE FURTHER USE OF TACTICS WHICH MOTIVATED OUR APPROACH TO GENERAL ANDRIAMAHAZO -- USE OF U.S. ATTITUDE TOWARD MALAGASY EXPECTATIONS FROM US.S. TO INFLUENCE MALAGASY PSOTION TOWARD OUR INTERESTS -- UNTIL WE SEEM WHETHER AND WHEN IT MAY BECOME DESIRABLE USE THEM AGAIN. PRESUMABLY SUCH TACTICS WOULD NOT CUT ANY ICE WITH THOSE WHO ARE TRYING TO FORCE US OUT.
MENDENHALL

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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